

Nelson on the Birds of the Tres Marias.¹—As a result of his visit to the Tres Marias Islands in May, 1897, Mr. Nelson presents us with a comprehensive account of the islands, their birds and mammals, while the reptiles, crustacea, and plants collected by himself and his assistant, Mr. E. A. Goldman, are reported on, respectively, by Leonard Stejneger, Mary J. Rathbun, and J. N. Rose. Mr. Nelson also adds a Bibliography of the Tres Marias Islands.

The Tres Marias Islands are situated about 65 miles west of the port of San Blas. The group is composed of four islands which were evidently at one time connected with one another. The comparatively shallow sea between the islands and the mainland, and the close relationship existing between their fauna and flora and that of the mainland, apparently prove a former mainland connection.

In consequence of the isolation incident to their insular existence we should expect the animals of these islands to develop distinguishing characteristics of size or color, and Mr. Nelson shows that no less than 18 of the 59 land birds—11 of which have previously been described by him²—are separable from their mainland allies.

The 83 birds recorded from the islands are treated at length, and the extended and admirable notes on habits add to Mr. Nelson's already well established reputation as a keen and discriminating student of birds in nature. — F. M. C.

Nelson on New Birds from Northwestern Mexico.³—This paper is based on collections made by Mr. E. A. Goldman in southwestern Sonora for the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The species and subspecies described are the following: *Amazona albifrons saltuensis*, *Antrastomus goldmani*, *Aphelocoma grisea*, *Pipilo fuscus intermedius*, *Cardinalis cardinalis affinis*, *Cardinalis cardinalis sinaloensis*,¹ *Arremonops superciliosa sinaloæ*, *Basileuterus rufifrons caudatus*, *Thryothorus felix pallidus*, *Heleodytes stridulus*, *Myadestes obscurus cinereus*, and *Catharus olivaceus*.

Mr. Nelson calls attention to the suggestive fact that a number of the birds of southwestern Sonora show closer relationships to forms peculiar to the Cape St. Lucas region than to races of the same species in southern Arizona, a condition which, to some extent, is paralleled by that of certain of the birds of San Blas and the Tres Marias Islands. — F. M. C.

¹ Natural History of the Tres Marias Islands, Mexico. General Account of the Islands, with Reports on Mammals and Birds. By E. W. Nelson. North American Fauna, No. 14, pp. 7-62. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899.

² Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, XII, pp. 8-11, 1898.

³ Descriptions of New Birds from Northwestern Mexico. By E. W. Nelson, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, XIII, pp. 25-31, May 25, 1899.